A volatile memory 10 is shared by a plurality of using Units 11 in a loosely-coupled manner. A token area of the memory stores a predetermined bit pattern (17) signifying initialization of the memory, including creation of an appropriate directory (16). Absence of the predetermined bit pattern signifies no initialization. The using units independently and asynchronously access the token area to verify initialization.

The first using unit detecting no initialization creates a directory in the memory for normal operation but, when a using unit, itself, is being powered up, a poll bit is set in order that initialization of the memory (10) can be delayed.
**DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim</th>
<th>CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US-A-4 240 143 (BESEMER et al.) * Figure 1; column 5, lines 1-25; column 17, lines 20-34; column 7, line 57 - column 18, line 9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>G 06 F 13/00 G 11 C 9/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US-A-4 070 704 (CALLE et al.) * Figures 2a-f,3; column 2, lines 16-55; column 4, line 10 - column 7, line 10</td>
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**TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.)**

- G 06 F 13/00
- G 11 C 9/06
- G 06 F 15/16
- G 06 F 9/44

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims.

**Place of search** THE HAGUE  
**Date of completion of the search** 17-03-1986  
**Examiner** LEDRUT P.

**CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS**

- X: particularly relevant if taken alone
- Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
- A: technological background
- O: non-written disclosure
- P: intermediate document
- T: theory or principle underlying the invention
- E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
- D: document cited in the application
- L: document cited for other reasons
- M: member of the same patent family, corresponding document